ALLOTROPA VIRGATA (ERICACEAE), FIRST RECORDS FOR IDAHO AND MONTANA.—
Allotropa virgata T. & G., a distinctive, red and white candy-striped saprophyte, has been cellected from three stations in the Idaho Batholith region of the Northern Rocky Mountains. It was first collected in the Northern Rocky Mountains during 1965 in the Bitterroot Mountains, Ravalli County, Montana, 2 km SE of St. Mary Peak (Stickney 100B, Intermountain Forest and Range Experiment Station–Missoula; Sec. 26, T.9N., R.21W., M.P.M.; elev. 2100 m, 1 Aug 1965). First records for Idaho were made in Idaho County during 1972: (1) Selway River Valley ca 1.6 km SW of the Moose Creek Ranger Station (Habeck 2503, IFRES–Missoula; NW 1/4 Sec. 14, T.32N., R.12E., B.P.M.; elev. ca 900 m, 13 Jul 1972) and (2) near the summit of the Burgdorf–Warren Road (Steele 23, ID, WS, IFRES–Missoula, and IFRES–Boise; NW1/4 Sec. 19, T.22N., R.6E., B.P.M.; elev. 1900 m, 15 Aug 1972).

Allotropa virgata was previously known from California to British Columbia at low elevations in the Sierra Nevada, Cascade Mountains, and Coast Ranges according to Hitchcock et al. (Vascular plants of the Pacific Northwest, Part 4, 1959). It is absent from both Davis' Flora of Idaho (1952) and Booth and Wright's Flora of Montana, Part 2 (1966). Inquiries to ID, IDS, WS, and MONTU revealed no collections from Idaho or Montana.

The nearest known location for A. virgata is the east slope of the Cascade Range (Hitchcock et al., ibid.); consequently, the three collections from the Northern Rocky Mountains represent an eastward extension of about 480 km. Within the Northern Rocky Mountains its present known distribution extends approximately 185 km (intervals of 71 and 117 km separate the three stations). On site, this saprophyte appears to be rare. Numbers of plants observed varied from seven to one for the Montana station. In Montana, its occurrence appears to be accidental as it has been looked for since and not found. At one of the Idaho stations, Steele 23, A. virgata appeared to be substrate specific to decaying wood. Here the total population of seven plants was restricted to the buried margin of a partially-decomposed log. At both sites above 1800 m, A. virgata was found growing beneath Pinus contorta in the transition between the montane and subalpine forest zones. In contrast, at a lower elevation in the Selway River Valley, it was growing in a 250-300 year-old stand of Abies grandis and Thuja plicata. Allotropa virgata may occur in the intervening areas, but small populations, rugged terrain, and remoteness of the region preclude early detection and verification of its distribution in the Northern Rocky Mountains.

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ARCTOSTAPHYLOS PENINSULARIS IN SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA.—Wells (Madroño 21:268, 1972) recently described Arctostaphylos peninsularis, a burl-forming species from above 1200 m in the San Pedro Martir Mountains of Baja California. Recent collections have revealed a similar taxon in southern California (Keeley 3404, California State University, San Diego). These plants resemble A. peninsularis in the burl-forming habit, glaucous foliage, small closely appressed bracts, and glabrous fruit but differ in having larger leaves with fewer stomata above, longer petioles and pedicels, glandular inflorescences, and larger fruit that tend to split apart.

This taxon seems to be limited in distribution to between 200 and 900 m elevation, from the Santa Margarita Mountains to the Agua Tibia Mountains in northern San Diego and southern Riverside counties. In the middle of its range, from De Luz 30 km east to Pala Creek, this is the only Arctostaphylos species found.—Jon E. Keeley, Department of Botany, University of Georgia, Athens 30601.